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INFO RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 001927

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/ELA
TREASURY FOR BRYAN BALIN AND FRANCISCO PARODI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/08/2019 TAGS: [ECON](#) [EAID](#) [EFIN](#) [EINV](#) [EG](#) [ETRD](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#)

SUBJECT:

GOE MINISTERS SAY EGYPT REMAINS COMMITTED TO ECONOMIC REFORM Classified By: ECPO Minister-Counselor Donald A. Blome for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)
1.(U) Key Points - GOE says it is committed to continuing economic reform. - Rachid expects exports to recover over the next 24-26 months. - Th
2.(U) A financial conference last week in Cairo featured speeches by Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif as well as several members of his cabinet. The
3.(U) Minister of Trade and Industry, Rachid M. Rachid, told the conference that, despite the sharp drop in GDP growth that Egypt has seen in w
4.(U) Rachid outlined two key areas of near-term focus for his ministry. The first is a focus on "internal trade" aimed at improving the domest
5.(U) Rachid was also fairly upbeat on the foreign trade. He pointed out that Egyptian non-oil exports had risen from LE44 billion (US\$8 billic
6.(U) Investment Minister, Mahmoud Mohieldin while saying that last year's economic growth was better than expected, cautioned that it was "not
7.(U) Mohieldin focused on the need for Egypt's growth to benefit the entire population. He told the audience that the responsibility of the gc
8.(U) Mohieldin cautioned that the problems of the global economy are not yet behind us and Egypt was adjusting to the new global norms of lowe
9.(U) With regards to infrastructure investment and the role of the private sector, Mohieldin focused on public-private partnerships (PPP) as w
10.(U) In response to a question about a new round of privatization, Mohieldin said that the government still plans to announce a new privatiza
11.(U) In a public interview at the close of the conference, in response to repeated questions as to whether the global financial crisis had di
12.(U) Nazif listed health, education, energy, and transportation infrastructure as his top priorities and highlighted transportation infrastru
13.(C) The extremely aggressive goals set out by Rachid and Mohieddin strike us perhaps more as aspirational rather than the calculated result
14.(C) After a period of palpable "fatigue" among many reform-minded government ministers, it is encouraging to see the Egyptian government put